

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /070 W
-----013690 301747Z /46

R 301420Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY FREETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7752
INFO AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE FREETOWN 1688

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, SL
SUBJ: ONE PARTY STATE: REFERENDUM BILL PASSES

REF: FREETOWN 1665

1. PARLIAMENT PASSED WITHOUT OPPOSITION BILL ON MAY 26, AUTHORIZING HOLDING OF NATIONAL REFERENDUM TO APPROVE NEW ONE PARTY STATE CONSTITUTION. ACCORDING TO SUNDAY, MAY 28, EDITION OF "WE YONE", THE REFERENDUM WILL BEGIN ON MONDAY, JUNE 5, IN THE NORTHERN PROVINCE; FOLLOWED ON JUNE 7, BY A REFERENDUM IN THE EASTERN PROVINCE; NEXT, IN THE SOUTHERN PROVINCE ON JUNE 9; AND, FINALLY TERMINATED BY A REFERENDUM ON JUNE 12, IN THE WESTERN AREA. PRESIDENT STEVENS IS EXPECTED TO OPEN THE NEXT SESSION OF PARLIAMENT ON JUNE 16, UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE NEW CONSTITUTION.

2. GOVERNMENT HAS ANNOUNCED DEFECTION OF FIRST SLPP PARLIAMENTARIAN TO RANKS OF APC UNDER CONDITIONS OF NEW CONSTITUTION. ACCORDING TO PRESS ANNOUNCEMENTS, P.P. BRIMA KEBBI, MP FOR PUJEHUN NORTH, ANNOUNCED ON MAY 27 HIS INTENTION TO JOIN APC. POPULAR DEMONSTRATIONS SPONSORED BY THE APC IN SUPPORT
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OF THE ONE PARTY STATE CONTINUE IN FREETOWN AND PLEDGES OF LOYALTY TO THE APC HAVE BEEN ISSUED BY SUCH DIVERSE GROUPS AS THE BANK OF SIERRA LEONE AND THE SIERRA LEONE LABOR CONGRESS.

3. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. EMBASSY COMMENT: LOCAL SOURCES PREDICT AT LEAST FIVE MORE SLPP PARLIAMENTARIANS, THOSE WHO ABSTAINED DURING VOTE ON NEW CONSTITUTION, ALSO WILL ANNOUNCE

FOR APC. JUSU SHERIFF AND MANA KPAKA ARE ONLY TWO SLPP PARLIAMENTARIANS WHO MAY ELECT TO LEAVE PARLIAMENT RATHER THAN DECLARE FOR APC, AND LOCAL OPINION TENDS TO BELIEVE EVEN THEY WILL OPT FOR APC RATHER THAN LEAVE POLITICS. LOCAL SOURCES ALSO CLAIM A NUMBER OF APC PARLIAMENTARIANS ARE OPPOSING NEW CONSTITUTION, PARTICULARLY THOSE ELECTED FROM SOUTHERN AND EASTERN PROVINCES, WHO FEAR THEIR CHANCES OF BEING RE-ELECTED ARE GREATLY DIMINISHED IF THEY HAVE TO COMPETE AGAINST POPULAR CANDIDATES WHO FORMERLY WERE PREVENTED FROM CONTESTING BECAUSE THEY WERE MEMBERS OF SLPP. END EMBASSY COMMENT.
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NORTH

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NNN

Message Attributes

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